The Hon'ble Court was informed that while the proposal relating to strengthening of security arrangements on VVIP routes had been finalized by the Government, tie time-frame for finalization of the remaining Schemes would be as follows :—

(i) Separation of crime investigation from law and order functions at the police Station level-by 31st March, 2004;

(ii) setting up of Metro Rail Police Station/Posts-by 31st March,2004; and

(iii) Introduction of computerization at the Police Station level-within one year and six months.

(c) and (d)The issue of Police Reforms has been a constant concern of the Government of India. The National Police Commission and the Padmanabhaiah Committee on Police reforms were set up by the Government of India and their recommendations were sent to the State Governments for consideration and implementation, as "Police" is a State subject under the Constitution of India and it is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments of carry out police reforms. The Government of India have been mornitoring the progress of action taken by the State Government in this regard, and providing necessary funds for modernization of police forces, including better training of in-service personnel and fresh recruits, setting up of forensic science laboratories, computerization and other scientific aids to investigation.

Police Reforms is a continuous process and Central Government has been continuously emphasizing these issues.

Payment of Freedom Fighters Pension

149. SHRI ABANI ROY :

SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of cases pertaining to pension payments to freedom fighters are pending with Government;

(b) if so, how many such cases are pending. State-wise and what steps are being taken to clear these cases; and

(c) whether some officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs have been caught red-handed by the CBI for accepting bribe in clearing freedom fighters' pensions cases and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) and (b) No case complete in all respects eligible for Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension duly verified and recommended by the State Governments is pending in the Ministry, except 1182 verification reports received recently from Government of Andhra Pradesh in respect of cases recommended by the Hyderabad Special Screening Committee relating to Hyderabad Liberation Movement, as on 31.10.2003. While efforts are made to dispose of these cases as early as possible no time frame can be indicated.

(c) On a specific complaint passed on to CBI by MHA that two staff members of Freedom Fighters Division of MHA had demanded bribe for clearing a pension cases of a freedom fighter, CBI had laid a trap to nab them red-handed. One of them, Shri Harbhajan Dass, Assistant, was caught red-handed on 25.07.2003. A case has been registered against the officials under the relevant provisions of the IPC/ Prevention of Corruption Act.

Communal Clashes

150. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the State-wise number of communal clashes, that took place all over India during 1998—2003;

(b) the number of persons killed in those incidence; and

(c)the quantum of property loss in terms of money in those incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) 'Police' and 'Public Order' being State subjects as per the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution, this information is not maintained centrally by the Government.

Invitation to Hurriyat Leaders for Discussions

151. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India have.decided to invite Hurriyat leaders for discussions with him on Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what has been the response of Hurriyat leaders?